# Recent records of birds from Bhutan

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Records are presented of birds seen during two recent trips to Bhutan, in March 1986 and April/May 1990. A brief description of habitats visited is given. A total of 235 species was recorded, of which 22 are believed to be newly published records for Bhutan. A record of Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus* is described, which is the first record for the Indian subcontinent. The importance is discussed of extensive sub-tropical hill forest to species with few other recent records in the Himalayas. Birdwatchers visiting Bhutan are encouraged to collect and publish records to assist with the conservation of important forests.

Bhutan is a land-locked kingdom in the eastern Himalayas which has long held a fascination for natural history explorers. A political mission led by R. B. Pemberton collected some birds there in 1838, but, despite the statement in Pemberton (1865): 'Of the birds in Bootan a detailed account will be hereafter given when a competent examination has been effected of the collection made by the Mission during its progress through the country', no report was published and the surviving specimens carry no locality data (see discussion in Ludlow and Kinnear 1937). No further work was carried out until F. Ludlow and G. Sherriff studied the flora and birds in Bhutan on four collecting trips they made in the 1930s (Ludlow and Kinnear 1937, 1944). Salim Ali, S. D. Ripley and a team from the Zoological Survey of India made six collecting trips to the country between 1966 and 1973. Ali (1977) stated that 'A comprehensive scientific report of the complete ornithological survey of Bhutan is under preparation jointly by Dr S. Dillon Ripley, Dr Biswamoy Biswas and myself. This will include the results of the series of recent expeditions undertaken by all the three, jointly and severally, and will be based on our combined collections and field notes'. Ripley (1973) made some general comments about the diversity and numbers of birds encountered, but the only other information so far published relates to localities of the collected specimens (Abdulali 1969-1988) and the listing of Bhutan in distributional information in Ali and Ripley (1983) and Ripley (1982).

Birdwatchers visiting other parts of the Himalayas have learnt of the increasing diversity one encounters when moving east, and of the fact that Bhutan has kept its extremely rich forests substantially intact (Sargent 1985). The difficulties over access which are only now easing have, over the years, added to the allure of the country and the excitement of finding interesting bird species. The potential for seeing species in Bhutan difficult to see in other parts of the Himalayas, and of finding important populations of species rare elsewhere has long been recognised. Even birdwatchers and botanists visiting recently have tended to go to similar areas, so that the mid-altitudes and particularly the valleys of Paro, Thimphu and Bumthang are better known, while the east and lower altitudes remain relatively unexplored for birds. Gaston (1989) visited Paro in the west and Chorten Koro in the east, giving some details of species seen there.

Once in Bhutan, birdwatching is relatively easy. Towns are very small and surrounded closely by reasonable habitat, including primary forest. Although roads are few there is so little traffic that they provide excellent walks through the most beautiful examples of Himalayan forests. There are increasing opportunities to trek, often in completely new areas.

I have been fortunate to visit Bhutan twice. In 1986 I accompanied Nicola Bradbear between 4 and 29 March on her appointment to the Royal Government to look at the potential for developing beekeeping. We were able to travel extensively, and were particularly lucky to spend a few days in central Bhutan on and around the road connecting Tongsa with Geylegphug on the southern border (Figure). In 1990 I led the "Naturetrek" trip with botanist Tony Schilling between 23 April and 11 May, which included a ten day trek in the Bumthang valleys. While both trips have been in the spring, the first was early enough to catch lingering winter visitors, notably Blacknecked Crane *Grus nigricollis* (Clements and Bradbear 1986), and the second trip was late enough for most summer visitors to have arrived. A total of 235 species was recorded.

Bhutan possesses a similar altitude range and habitat diversity to Nepal, and is very compact. The narrow winding roads can take one from subtropical valleys to 3,500 m passes in half a day. The southern lowland strip is even narrower than similar habitat in Nepal and has suffered equivalent pressure from agricultural development. However, remnant areas of Sal Shorea robusta forest even around the town of Gevlegphug make it possible to see specialist forest birds such as Great Hornbill Buceros bicornis. Travelling north and rising in altitude, the roads pass through rich sub-tropical forest of which the area around Honey Rocks is a particularly good example. Here the colonies of the Rock Bee Apis dorsata usually have attendant Yellow-rumped Honeyguide Indicator xanthonotus, as they seem to commonly elsewhere in Bhutan. If the birdwatcher chooses to enter the country by road, then the journey from Phuntsholing in the south-west, gaining altitude towards Paro, passes through excellent sub-tropical Schima/Castanopsis, and warm temperate evergreen forest particularly between Gedu, where there is a woodprocessing factory, and Bunakha. The east-west road runs through the midaltitudes of the country, descending to 900 m at Wangdiphodrang, and climbs to the three higher passes of the Dochhu La (3,116 m), Pele La (3,390 m) and Yutong La (3,404 m). In the valleys, wide rivers provide wintering habitat for Ibisbill Ibidorhyncha struthersii and Long-billed Plover Charadrius placidus. On the passes are very good examples of cool temperate evergreen forests dominated by conifers at the highest altitudes. The valleys around Paro and Thimphu in the west are very dry and, at around 2,600 m, are vegetated with Blue Pine Pinus wallichiana, usually as secondary growth. Even these areas can be extremely rewarding for birds, for instance Brown Parrotbill Paradoxomis unicolor and Maroon-backed Accentor Prunella immaculata were both encountered in March less than half an hour's walk from the centre of the capital, Thimphu. Wetter glaciated valleys occur a little higher, for instance around Gangtey Gonpa, and it is these areas which

are favoured by the wintering Black-necked Cranes. The Bumthang valley trek passes from drier, open slopes, where Black-billed Magpie Pica pica is common, into excellent Himalayan Birch Betula utilis forest with thick bamboo understorey where Satyr Tragopan Tragopan satyra can be seen. Up to the higher passes the slopes are clothed with East Himalayan Fir Abies densa forest, under which grow various Rhododendron species, some of them rare. Blood Pheasant Ithaginis cruentus is common here. On the Rudung La at about 4,200 m one reaches the tree line where the vegetation is dominated by luxuriant growth of dwarf rhododendrons. Open grassy slopes occur in the vicinity of these more eastern passes, where Impeyan Pheasant Lophophorus impejanus can usually be found feeding in the early morning. At higher altitudes there are extensive alpine pastures seldom visited by western ornithologists.

There follows an annotated list of the 56 most interesting species recorded during the two visits. I have included records for Black-necked Crane, Wood Snipe Gallinago nemoricola, Blyth's Kingfisher Alcedo hercules and Rufousnecked Hornbill Aceros nipalensis which are listed by Collar and Andrew (1988) in the ICBP World Checklist of Threatened Birds. A complete list of the 235 species seen is included as an Appendix. The English and scientific names of birds follow King et al. (1975), where possible. Dates in March refer to 1986, and those in April/May refer to 1990.

## ANNOTATED LIST OF SELECTED SPECIES

INDIAN POND HERON Ardeola grayii Singles at Phuntsholing on 11 March and at Geylegphug on 15 March are the first published records for Bhutan, although the species has been seen by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.).

BLACK STORK Ciconia nigra Singles at Sarbhang on 15 March and Geylegphug on 16 March. The only previous published records for Bhutan are observations by P. Gole on the Manas and Sankosh Rivers (Scott 1989) and at Bumdiling on 8 March 1991 (Chacko 1991).

COMMON PINTAIL Anas acuta One in the Paro valley on 21 March. Previously recorded only by Pemberton (Ludlow and Kinnear 1937).

SPOT-BILLED DUCK A. poecilorhyncha One at Punakha on 7 March. Apparently the first published record for Bhutan.

EURASIAN WIGEON A. penelope One at Punakha on 20 March. Apparently the first published record for Bhutan.

COMMON MERGANSER Mergus merganser Three at Punakha and one at Paro in March. The only previously published records for Bhutan are observations by P. Gole at Bumdiling in February 1988, and on the Manas and Sankosh Rivers (Scott 1989), although the species has been seen by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.).

ORIENTAL HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhyncus* Singles at Geylegphug on two dates in March. Apparently the first published record for Bhutan.

LESSER FISH-EAGLE *Ichthyophaga humilis* One near Geylegphug on 15 March. This appears to be the first published record for Bhutan.

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD Buteo rufinus One near Paro (2,600 m) on 23 March, is the first definite record for Bhutan, although Baker (1922-1930) mentions its occurrence in the country.

COLLARED FALCONET *Microhierax caerulescens* A pair seen copulating in Sal forest near Geylegphug on 16 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Blanford (1895), but the basis for this is not known.

NORTHERN HOBBY Falco subbuteo One at Ugyencholing on 5 May. The first published record for Bhutan, although the species was seen in 1989 by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.).

JAPANESE QUAIL Coturnix japonica A pair seen and heard calling at Tangbi Lhakhang (2,800 m), Bumthang on 29 April; singles at Ugyencholing (2,900 m) on 1 May and at Gangtey Gonpa (3,200 m) on 9 May; all identified by voice. Ludlow and Kinnear (1937) found quail to be plentiful, and breeding, but all, including a male collected at Damthang in the west, were listed as Common Quail C. coturnix. Pemberton and Ludlow (in Ludlow and Kinnear 1944) collected birds that were apparently intermediate between the two species. The only previous record of C. japonica for Bhutan is of one collected by F. M. Bailey on 5 July 1922. The records presented here refer to birds in breeding habitat, although they could be migrants returning to China.

SATYR TRAGOPAN *Tragopan satyra* Four males calling and a pair seen below Phe-phe La (3,500 m) on 1 May; males calling at two sites in forest between Ugyencholing and Phokphey (approx. 3,600 m) on 2 May. The species extends east into Arunachal Pradesh (Ludlow and Kinnear 1944), overlapping with Blyth's Tragopan *T. blythii* in eastern Bhutan, contra Gaston (1989).

IMPEYAN PHEASANT Lophophorus impejanus Common in forest and, in the early morning, on grassy slopes around Phokphey (3,900 m) in May. Records of this species, here found east of the Black Mountains, disagree with information in Gaston (1989) that this mountain range separates Impeyan Pheasant to the west from Sclater's Monal Lophophorus sclateri in the east. The latter species was mentioned by Ali (1977) as possibly occurring in extreme eastern Bhutan. However, there are no definite records for Bhutan.

BLACK-NECKED CRANE *Grus nigricollis* A flock of 77 on the valley floor below Gangtey Gonpa (3,200 m) on 12 March; two at Jakar (2,800 m) on 14 March (Clements and Bradbear 1986). The subject of a number of other studies (Saha 1980, Gole 1981a, 1981b and 1989, Khacher 1981, Dorji

1987, Bishop 1989, Chacko 1991, Wollenhaupt 1991).

RED-WATTLED LAPWING Vanellus indicus Four at Sarbhang on 15 March, the first published record for Bhutan.

RIVER LAPWING V. duvaucelii Three at Wangdiphodrang on 12 March; one at Geylegphug on 15 March; pair with chicks at Wangdiphodrang on 27 April and on 9 May. Regularly seen recently at Wangdiphodrang (D. G. H. Mills pers. comm.) although the only previously published records are observations by P. Gole on the Manas and Sankosh Rivers (Scott 1989) and mention of its occurrence in Bhutan by Ali and Ripley (1983).

LONG-BILLED PLOVER Charadrius placidus Three along river towards Punakha on 26 April. Previously recorded only by Ludlow and Kinnear (1937), in October.

WOOD SNIPE Gallinago nemoricola One on a forest stream below Dochhu La (approx. 2,800 m) on 12 and 24 March. Previously collected on the Cheli La on 26 June 1922 by F. M. Bailey (Ludlow and Kinnear 1944), and on the Dib La on 10 September 1934 by Ludlow (Ludlow and Kinnear 1937). Inskipp and Inskipp (1986) state that, in Nepal, it is less common than previously.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto Many seen at Phuntsholing on 11 March, the first published record for Bhutan.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* Four at Phuntsholing on 11 March and at least ten at Geylegphug on 16 March, the first published records for Bhutan.

COMMON HAWK-CUCKOO Cuculus varius Commonly heard between Phuntsholing and Paro in May. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983), although the species has been recorded commonly by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.).

ASIAN PALM-SWIFT Cypsiurus balasiensis Many seen at Geylegphug on 15 and 16 March, the first published records for Bhutan.

BLYTH'S KINGFISHER Alcedo hercules One below Honey Rocks (approx. 900 m) on 18 March. Listed as occurring in Bhutan by Ali and Ripley (1983) and therefore presumably collected in the 1960s or 1970s. There are no known recent records of this species anywhere else in the Himalayas, apart from one bird seen in Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991). Inskipp (1989) mentioned it as one of the few forest species at risk which, in Nepal, occurs only outside protected areas.

RUFOUS-NECKED HORNBILL Aceros nipalensis Two above Honey Rocks (approx. 1,200 m) on 17 March. The species is very poorly known in the Himalayas; the only previous mentions for Bhutan are by Ripley (1982) and Ali and Ripley (1983).

WREATHED HORNBILL Rhyticeros undulatus Two at Sarbhang on

15 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ripley (1982) and Ali and Ripley (1983).

INDIAN PIED HORNBILL Anthracoceros albirostris Male at nest near Geylegphug on 15 and 16 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ripley (1982) and Ali and Ripley (1983).

COPPERSMITH BARBET Megalaima haemacephala One at Phuntsholing on 11 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983).

YELLOW-RUMPED HONEYGUIDE *Indicator xanthonotus* One east of Wangdiphodrang, and one near Nobding on 12 March; at least five between Jakar and Geylegphug on 14 March; two at Honey Rocks on 17 March; one at Shemgang and four below Tongsa on 19 March; three between Tongsa and Thimphu on 20 March. Surprisingly this species was not recorded by Ludlow and Kinnear (1937), although it seems to be easier to see in Bhutan than in Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1986). It was studied at Honey Rocks by Hussain and Ali (1984).

PLAIN MARTIN Riparia paludicola One at over 2,800 m above Chendebji chorten on 8 May. Apparently the first published record for Bhutan.

LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina novaehollandiae* Two at Geylegphug on 16 March, the first published record for Bhutan.

GOLDEN-FRONTED LEAFBIRD *Chloropsis aurifrons* Two in Sal forest near Geylegphug on 10 March. This appears to be the first published record for Bhutan (although it has been seen by D. G. H. Mills, pers. comm.), but presumably the species will be found more commonly if more effort is made to visit suitable habitat.

BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE *Oriolus xanthornus* Two at Geylegphug on 16 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983).

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE O. oriolus One near Wangdiphodrang on 26 April. This appears to be the first published record for Bhutan although it has been seen near this site previously by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.).

RUFOUS TREEPIE *Dendrocitta vagabunda* Four at Geylegphug on 15 March. Apparently the first published record for Bhutan.

HOUSE CROW Corvus splendens A few seen at Phuntsholing in March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983).

WALLCREEPER *Tichodroma muraria* Frequent along mid-altitude river beds, particularly between Thimphu and Paro, in March. Gaston (1989) found this species abundant during the winter, but it was not recorded in summer by Ludlow and Kinnear (1937).

WHITE-NAPED YUHINA Yuhina bakeri Two in forest near Gedu (approx. 1,500 m) on 10 March. Only one previous record from Bhutan –

from Batase, Shemgang district (Abdulali 1983). Apparently thinly distributed through the sub-tropical hill forest zone of the eastern Himalayas, and is mentioned by Inskipp (1989) as one of the few forest species at risk which, in Nepal, occurs only outside protected areas.

INDIAN BLUE ROBIN *Erithacus brunneus* Frequent in lower parts of the trek and at Motithang, Thimphu in May. Ludlow found the species on only one occasion (Ludlow and Kinnear 1937).

BLACK-BACKED FORKTAIL *Enicurus immaculatus* One above Geylegphug on 14 March. Mentioned for Bhutan only by Ripley (1982).

INDIAN ROBIN Saxicoloides fulicata One at Phuntsholing on 11 March. This appears to be the first published record for Bhutan.

GREY-CHEEKED WARBLER Seicercus poliogenys One near Gangtey Gonpa (3,400 m) on 9 May. Collected in various localities in Bhutan by Ludlow (Ludlow and Kinnear 1937 and 1944) and Ali and Ripley (Abdulali 1986), but rarely recorded in Nepal (Inskipp and Inskipp 1991) or Sikkim (Ali 1962).

YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER Abroscopus superciliaris Two below Honey Rocks (approx. 900 m) on 17 March. Only one previous record for Bhutan – from Deothang in the east (Abdulali 1986).

ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER Ficedula superciliaris One near Bunakha on 24 April and a few on trek especially near rivers in May. Described by Ludlow and Kinnear (1937) as rather scarce, so it is probable that the fairly good numbers seen in May, not always in forest, were migrants.

BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER Cyornis rubeculoides One below Gedu (1,500 m) on 24 April. Few previous records for Bhutan, Ludlow and Kinnear (1937) obtaining only two.

PYGMY BLUE FLYCATCHER *Muscicapella hodgsoni* One below Dochhu La (approx. 2,400 m) on 24 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983).

YELLOW-HOODED WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* Adult male of race M.c.citreola at Ugyencholing (2,900 m), in wet grassland near river on 5 and 6 May. This is the first published record for Bhutan, but the species would be expected to occur at lower elevations in winter.

BROWN SHRIKE Lanius cristatus Singles (probably the same individual) at Thimphu on 5 and 6 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983), although seen previously by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.). A likely migrant, though there may be a wintering population.

CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING Sturnus malabaricus At least ten seen near Geylegphug on 16 March. Previously mentioned for Bhutan only by Ali and Ripley (1983).

ASIAN PIED STARLING S. contra Many at Phuntsholing and Geylegphug in March, the first published records for Bhutan.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla One at Ugyencholing (2,900 m) on 6 May. This represents a considerable eastwards extension of the species' known wintering range in the Himalayas, and is the first record for Bhutan.

CRIMSON ROSEFINCH Carpodacus rubescens Two in forest near the Yutong La (3,700 m) on 13 March. Ludlow and Kinnear (1937) describe this species as rare in conifer and birch forests of eastern Bhutan. More recently recorded by D. G. H. Mills (pers. comm.) in Bumthang.

THREE-BANDED ROSEFINCH C. trifasciatus Three at Jakar (2,800 m) on 13 March. These are the first recorded for Bhutan, and for the Indian subcontinent.

A small party of two females and one male was observed in fields by the Chamka Chu river on the edge of Jakar village. A large rosefinch, the male bright, with substantial amounts of white around head and on closed wing. Females duller with no red, though white in wing noticeable, and buffyorange underparts reminiscent of Brambling. Both sexes with white belly. Male's face and throat streaked and at a distance forming a pale patch extending into white supercilium. Crown, nape and back crimson. Wings dark but showing conspicuous pale edgings, particularly to the tertials. Broad white band along edge of back. Pale buff supercilium noticed on one female, and buff edgings to wing feathers. Both sexes showed heavy bill, noticeably pale in male. Watched for about five minutes down to 30 m before they flew off into mist and light rain.

It is possible that the species winters in small numbers either in Arunachal Pradesh or in some of the higher, drier valleys of central and eastern Bhutan, which are not very far from wintering areas in the Pome district of Xizang province (Ali and Ripley 1983; Meyer de Schauensee, 1984).

GOLD-NAPED FINCH *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* A single below the Yutong La (approx. 3,600 m) on 8 May (R. Watson, pers. comm.).

GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH *P. erythaca* Six on the Dochhu La (3,000 m) on 10 May. There appear to be few other recent records of this species in the Himalayas. Ludlow saw only three in eastern Bhutan, and describes their real home as lying further east (Ludlow and Kinnear 1944).

GREY-NECKED BUNTING Emberiza buchanani One on very dry slopes below Mesithang (approx. 2,700 m) on 7 May. This is the first published record for Bhutan, and seems to relate to a wandering individual much further east than is usual.

Remarkably, the above list includes 22 species for which this paper is the first published record of their occurrence in Bhutan. In most cases this must be more a reflection of the paucity of published records, even from recent visits by birdwatchers, than an indication of the scarcity of the species. This is

certainly so for the first group of seven species, Indian Pond Heron Ardeola grayii, Red-wattled Lapwing Vanellus indicus, Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto, Rose-ringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri, Rufous Treepie Dendrocitta vagabunda, Indian Robin Saxicoloides fulicata and Asian Pied Starling Sturnus contra which were all recorded in the narrow lowland strip of southern Bhutan where western birdwatchers have seldom spent time. None of these species requires primary habitat, occurring in agricultural land or around habitation, and all are common and widespread in adjacent Assam. Four lowland species which frequent lightly wooded country were recorded for the first time: Oriental Honey Buzzard Pernis ptilorhyncus, Lesser Fisheagle Ichthyophaga humilis, Northern Hobby Falco subbuteo and Asian Palmswift Cypsiurus balasiensis. The swift was breeding in Areca palms planted around fields, and the single fish-eagle was seen along a river on the edge of remnant Sal forest. There are new records of two species which may be expected in Sal forest itself; Large Cuckoo-shrike Coracina novaehollandiae and Golden-fronted Leafbird Chloropsis aurifrons.

Two ducks which apparently have not before been recorded in Bhutan, Spot-billed Duck Anas poecilorhyncha and Eurasian Wigeon A. penelope, were seen at the confluence of the Mo Chu and Pho Chu rivers at Punakha in March. Both are presumed to be migrants, as is the first Yellow-hooded Wagtail Motacilla citreola in the Tang valley in May. Eurasian Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus was in a valley with great potential for migrants, but has been seen there previously (D. G. H. Mills pers. comm.) and could breed. The first Plain Martin Riparia paludicola to be recorded for Bhutan appears to be a wandering individual since, at over 2,800 m, it was not in a suitable location for breeding. First records for Brambling Fringilla montifringilla and Greynecked Bunting Emberiza buchanani also presumably refer to wanderers, and apparently extend eastwards the known non-breeding range of both species in the Himalayas. It remains to be seen whether Three-banded Rosefinch Carpodacus trifasciatus will be confirmed as a winter visitor to Bhutan, or whether this record refers to vagrancy.

Four other species recorded bear further mention owing to their scarcity elsewhere in the Himalayas. Sightings of significant numbers of wintering Black-necked Cranes in 1986 rekindled study interest in this charismatic bird (Chacko 1991), and from late October through to early March, this species is easily accessible to visiting birdwatchers. The other three species, Rufousnecked Hornbill Aceros nipalensis, White-naped Yuhina Yuhina bakeri and Blyth's Kingfisher were found in subtropical hill forest, which has seldom been visited by other observers. Interestingly, Golden Langurs Presbytis geei are also readily seen in this habitat in central Bhutan. There are huge areas of this species-rich forest type still remaining in Bhutan, and this author has been able only to touch on its potential by spending very small amounts of time in accessible parts close to roads. Inskipp and Inskipp (1986), and Inskipp (1989) have drawn attention to the need to protect similar forest types in Nepal, which are far less extensive there and which are severely threatened. The first step in taking conservation measures to protect such a

resource is to gain information on the species which occur there, and future visitors to Bhutan are encouraged to spend time in sub-tropical hill forest, and to make available their records of which species are seen.

Bhutan's forests are spell-binding in their extent and diversity. If visiting birdwatchers make an effort to go to little known areas and to publish records of bird species found there, then they will be making a significant contribution to Himalayan ornithology, and be assisting the Royal Government of Bhutan in achieving its aims of conserving this rare resource.

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## **APPENDIX**

## COMPLETE LIST OF BIRD SPECIES RECORDED IN BHUTAN DURING MARCH 1986 AND APRIL/MAY 1990

The first column of digits refers to the year in which the observations were made: 1986 or 1990 or both. The next column of digits refers to locations which are numbered approximately from west to east, and which appear as named locations in the accompanying map of Bhutan (see figure). The passes (ending with La) usually include forested slopes on either side and may therefore represent considerable altitude spread. Locations 10-12 were visited only in 1986, and the trekking locations 15-18 only in 1990. The next column of capital letters refers to broad habitat types and the final column gives some indication of abundance.

#### Locations:

- 1 Phuntsholing
- 2 Gedu Bunakha
- 3 Paro valley, including Taksang
- 4 Thimphu valley
- 5 Dochhu La
- 6 Wangdiphodrang Punakha
- 7 Popshika valley and Gangtey Gonpa
- 8 Pele La and Chendebji chorten
- 9 Tongsa
- 10 Tongsa Shemgang
- 11 Honey Rocks
- 12 Geylegphug Sarbhang
- 13 Yutong La
- 14 Gyetsa Jakar (Bumthang)
- 15 Tangbi Lhakang Nga Lhakang
- 16 Phe-phe La
- 17 Phokphey and Rudung La
- 18 Ugyencholing Mesithang Jakar
- u Ubiquitous at favourable altitudes

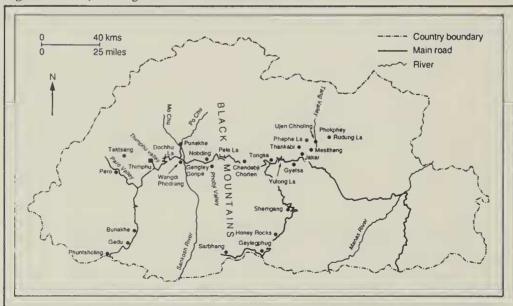
#### Habitat:

- A Forest; sub-tropical deciduous
- B Forest; sub-tropical evergreen
- C Forest; warm temperate evergreen
- D Forest; cool temperate evergreen
- E Forest; dry coniferous (often secondary)
- F Farmland in sub-tropical areas
- G Farmland in temperate areas
- H Habitation
- I Rivers
- J Upland mire

#### Abundance:

- i Abundant
- ii Common
- iii . Fairly common
- iv Small numbers
- v One sighting only

Figure. Bhutan, showing locations mentioned in text.



		Year	Location	Habitat	Numbers
GREAT CORMORANT	Phalacrocorax carbo	86	3,6,14	I	iv
INDIAN POND HERON	Ardeola grayii	86	1,12	F	iv
BLACK STORK	Ciconia nigra	86	12	F	iv
SPOT-BILLED DUCK	Anas poecilorhyncha	86	6	Ī	v
EURASIAN WIGEON	A. penelope	86	6	I	v
COMMON PINTAIL	A. acuta	86	3	Ī	v
COMMON MERGANSER	Mergus merganser	86	3,6	Ī	iv
CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD	Pernis ptilorhyncus	86	12	F	iv
BLACK KITE	Milvus migrans	86/90	u	F,H	iii
LESSER FISH-EAGLE	Ichthyophaga humilis	86	12	A	v
CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE	Spilornis cheela	86/90	u	C	ii
NORTHERN SPARROWHAWK	Accipiter nisus	90	9	Н	v
COMMON BUZZARD	Buteo buteo	86/90	13,14	D,G	iv
LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD	B. rufinus	86	3	G	v
BLACK EAGLE	Ictinaetus malayensis	86/90	u	C	ii
MOUNTAIN HAWK-EAGLE	Spizaetus nipalensis	90	5	D	v
COLLARED FALCONET	Microhierax caerulescens	86	12	A	iv
EURASIAN KESTREL	Falco tinnunculus	86/90	u	E,G,H	ii
NORTHERN HOBBY	F. subbuteo	90	18	G	v
JAPANESE QUAIL	Coturnix japonica	90	7,15,18	G	iii
BLOOD PHEASANT	Ithaginis cruentus	90	17	D	iii
SATYR TRAGOPAN	Tragopan satyra	90	16,17	D	iv
IMPEYAN PHEASANT	Lophophorus impejanus	90	17	D	iii
KALIJ PHEASANT	Lophura leucomelana	90	5,9,13	D	iii
BLACK-NECKED CRANE	Grus nigricollis	86	7,14	J	iii
IBISBILL	Ibidorhyncha struthersii	86	3,4,14	I	iv
RED-WATTLED LAPWING	Vanellus indicus	86	12	F	iv
RIVER LAPWING	V. duvaucelii	86/90	6,12	Ī	iii
LONG-BILLED PLOVER	Charadrius placidus	90	6	Ī	iv
WOOD SNIPE	Gallinago nemoricola	86	5	D	v
EURASIAN WOODCOCK	Scolopax rusticola	90	16,17	D	iii
SNOW PIGEON	Columba leuconota	86	3,5,8,9	G	ii
ROCK PIGEON	C. livia	86/90	u	G	ii
SPECKLED WOOD-PIGEON	C. hodgsonii	90	4,9	D,E	iii
ORIENTAL TURTLE-DOVE	Streptopelia orientalis	86/90	u	C,E,G	ii
COLLARED DOVE	S. decaocto	86	1	H	ii
RED TURTLE-DOVE	S. tranquebarica	86	12	F	iv
SPOTTED DOVE	S. chinensis	86/90	u	B,C,F	ii
ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET	Psittacula krameri	86	1,12	F,H	iii
RED-BREASTED PARAKEET	P. alexandri	86	12	A	iv
LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO	Cuculus sparverioides	90	u	В,С	ii
COMMON HAWK-CUCKOO	C. varius	90	1,2	B,C	ii
COMMON CUCKOO	C. canorus	90	u	C,E,G	ii
ORIENTAL CUCKOO	C. saturatus	90	u	C,D	iii
LESSER CUCKOO	C. poliocephalus	90	1,6	Ć	iv
ASIAN BARRED OWLET	Glaucidium cuculoides	86	10,12	B,C	iv
SPOTTED OWLET	Athene brama	86	12	F	iv
GREY NIGHTJAR	Caprimulgus indicus	90	15,18	E,G	iii
HIMALAYAN SWIFTLET	Collocalia brevirostris	86/90	5,6	C,D	iii
WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL	Hirundapus caudacutus	90	17	D	iii
FORK-TAILED SWIFT	Apus pacificus	90	2-4,9	C,D,G	ii
HOUSE SWIFT	A. affinis	90	1	H	ii
ASIAN PALM-SWIFT	Cypsiurus balasiensis	86	12	F	iii
CRESTED KINGFISHER	Ceryle lugubris	86/90	6,8,9,18	Ī	iii
BLYTH'S KINGFISHER	Alcedo hercules	86	11	В	v
COMMON KINGFISHER	A. atthis	86	6	I	iv

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER	Halcyon smyrnensis	86	1,12	F	iv
INDIAN ROLLER	Coracias benghalensis	86	12	F	ii
HOOPOE	Upupa epops	86/90	u	G,H	ii
RUFOUS-NECKED HORNBILL	Aceros nipalensis	86	11	В	iv
WREATHED HORNBILL	Rhyticeros undulatus	86	12	Α	iv
INDIAN PIED HORNBILL	Anthracoceros albirostris	86	12	F	iv
GREAT HORNBILL	Buceros bicornis	86	12	Α	iv
GREAT BARBET	Megalaima virens	86/90	u	С	ii
GOLDEN-THROATED BARBET	M. franklinii	86	10,11	B,C	iii
COPPERSMITH BARBET	M. haemacephala	86	1	F	v
YELLOW-RUMPED HONEYGUIDE	Indicator xanthonotus	86	6,8,10,11	B,C,D	ii
GREATER YELLOWNAPE	Picus flavinucha	90	1,2	A,B	iv
DARJEELING WOODPECKER	Picoides darjellensis	90	5	D	v
CRIMSON-BREASTED WOODPECKER	P. cathpharius	90	8	С	v
RUFOUS-BELLIED WOODPECKER	P. hyperythrus	90	5,13	D	iv
GREY-CAPPED WOODPECKER	P. canicapillus	86	12	A	v
ORIENTAL SKYLARK	Alauda gulgula	86/90	7,14,15,18	G,J	i
PLAIN MARTIN	Riparia paludicola	90	8	I	v
BARN SWALLOW	Hirundo rustica	86	11	H	iii
RED-RUMPED SWALLOW	H. daurica	86	12	F,H	iii
ASIAN HOUSE-MARTIN	Delichon dasypus	90	9	Ć	iii
NEPAL HOUSE-MARTIN	D. nipalensis	86/90	2,3,9	C,D,I	ii
LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE	Coracina novaehollandiae	86	12	Α	iv
SHORT-BILLED MINIVET	Pericrocotus brevirostris	86/90	2,11	B,C	iii
LONG-TAILED MINIVET	P. ethologus	86/90	u	C,D,E	ii
SCARLET MINIVET	P. flammeus	86/90	u	B,C,D	ii
GOLDEN-FRONTED LEAFBIRD	Chloropsis aurifrons	86	12	Α	iv
ORANGE-BELLIED LEAFBIRD	C. hardwickii	86	1	В	v
STRIATED BULBUL	Pycnonotus striatus	86	11	В	iv
RED-VENTED BULBUL	P. cafer	86	1,10,12	F,H	ii
MOUNTAIN BULBUL	Hypsipetes mcclellandii	86	11	В	v
BLACK BULBUL	H. madagascariensis	86/90	u	B,C,D	ii
BLACK DRONGO	Dicrurus macrocercus	86/90	1,12	F,H	iii
ASHY DRONGO	D. leucophaeus	86/90	1,2,11,12	В	iii
BRONZED DRONGO	D. aeneus	86/90	1,2,11,12	B,C	ii
SPANGLED DRONGO	D. hottentottus	86/90	1,12	A A	iii
BLACK-HOODED ORIOLE	Oriolus xanthornus	86	12	A	iv
MAROON ORIOLE	O. traillii	86	11	В	v
EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE	O. oriolus	90	6	F	v
EURASIAN JAY	Garrulus glandarius	86/90	2,5	C,D	iii
GOLD-BILLED MAGPIE	Urocissa flavirostris	86/90	u	C,D,E	ii
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	Pica pica	86/90	14,15,18	E,G,H	ii
RUFOUS TREEPIE	Dendrocitta vagabunda	86	12	F	iv
GREY TREEPIE	D. formosae	86	11	B,C	iii
EURASIAN NUTCRACKER	Nucifraga caryocatactes	86/90	u	D,E	ii
RED-BILLED CHOUGH	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	86/90	3,4,14-18	G,H	i
HOUSE CROW	Corvus splendens	86	1	H	iv
LARGE-BILLED CROW	C. macrorhynchos	86/90	u	E,G,H	i
BLACK-BROWED TTT	Aegithalos iouschistos	86/90	3,4,5,8,16	D,E	ii
BLACK-THROATED TIT	A. concinnus	86/90	7,11	C,D	iii
RUFOUS-VENTED TIT	Parus rubidiventris	86/90	8,16	D D	iii
COAL TIT	P. ater	86/90	u u	D,E	ii
	P. dichrous	86/90	u	D,E D	iii
GREY-CRESTED TIT	P. aichrous P. monticolus	86/90			i
GREEN-BACKED TTT			u 5 8 0 13	B,C,E	i ii
YELLOW-BROWED TIT CHESTNUT-BELLIED NUTHATCH	Sylviparus modestus Sitta castanea	86/90	5,8,9,13 12	C,D	iv
		86	8	A D	
WHITE-TAILED NUTHATCH	S. himalayensis	90	0	D	iv

WALLCREEPER	Tichodroma muraria	86	3,4,14	I	ii
COMMON TREECREEPER	Certhia familiaris	90	8,13,17	D	iii
BROWN DIPPER	Cinclus pallasii	86/90	3,4,8	I	iii
NORTHERN WREN	Troglodytes troglodytes	86/90	5,17	D	iii
SLENDER-BILLED SCIMITAR-BABBLER	Xiphirhynchus superciliaris	86	5	D	v
SCALY-BREASTED WREN-BABBLER	Pnoepyga albiventer	90	5	D	v
RUFOUS-CAPPED BABBLER	Stachyris ruficeps	86	5	D	iv
WHITE-THROATED					
LAUGHINGTHRUSH	Garrulax albogularis	86/90	u	C,D,E	ii
STRIATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH	G. striatus	86/90	u	C,D	ii
SPOTTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH	G. ocellatus	86	3,4	D,E	iii
BLACK-FACED LAUGHINGTHRUSH	G. affinis	86/90	3,5,7,8	D,E	ii
STREAKED LAUGHINGTHRUSH	G. lineatus	90	7	F,H	iii
CHESTNUT-CROWNED					
LAUGHINGTHRUSH	G. erythrocephalus	86/90	4,5,7,8	C,D,E	ii
RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX	Leiothrix lutea	90	2	C	v
WHITE-BROWED SHRIKE-BABBLER	Pteruthius flaviscapis	86/90	2,9,10	С	iv
HOARY BARWING	Actinodura nipalensis	86/90	8,11	C,D	iv
CHESTNUT-TAILED MINLA	Minla strigula	86/90	u	C,D	ii
RUFOUS-WINGED FULVETTA	Alcippe castaniceps	86/90	5,8	D	iii
WHITE-BROWED FULVETTA	A. vinipectus	86/90	u	C,D,E	i
BLACK-CAPPED SIBIA	Heterophasia capistrata	86/90	u	C,D,E	i
WHITE-NAPED YUHINA	Yuhina bakeri	86	2	В	iv
WHISKERED YUHINA	Y. flavicollis	86	10,11	C	iii
STRIPE-THROATED YUHINA	Y. gularis	86/90	5,7-10,13	C,D	ii
RUFOUS-VENTED YUHINA	Y. occipitalis	86/90	u	C,D,E	i
BROWN PARROTBILL	Paradoxornis unicolor	86	4,5	D,E	ii
INDIAN BLUE ROBIN	Erithacus brunneus	90	4,18	C,E	ii
ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN	Tarsiger cyanurus	86/90	5,16,17	D	ii
WHITE-BROWED BUSH-ROBIN	T. indicus	90	16	D	v
MAGPIE ROBIN	Copsychus saularis	86	10	Н	iv
HODGSON'S REDSTART	Phoenicurus hodgsoni	86	u	E,G,H	i
BLUE-FRONTED REDSTART	P. frontalis	86/90	u	D,E,G	i
WHITE-THROATED REDSTART	P. schisticeps	86	a 3,7	D,E,G	iv
PLUMBEOUS REDSTART	Rhyacornis fuliginosus	86/90	u	I	i
LITTLE FORKTAIL	Enicurus scouleri	90	9	Î	v
BLACK-BACKED FORKTAIL	E. immaculatus	86	12	В	v
SPOTTED FORKTAIL	E. maculatus	90	8	I	v
STONECHAT	Saxicola torquata	86	6,12	F	iv
GREY BUSHCHAT	S. ferrea	86/90	u,12	E,F,G	ii
RIVER CHAT	Thamnolaea leucocephala	86/90	u	I	i
INDIAN ROBIN	Saxicoloides fulicata	86	1	Н	v
BLUE-CAPPED ROCK-THRUSH	Monticola cinclorhynchus	90	5,8,13,14	C,D,E	ii
CHESTNUT-BELLIED ROCK-THRUSH	M. rufiventris	86/90		D,E,I	ii
BLUE ROCK-THRUSH	M. solitarius	86/90	u 3,4,6,9	I	iii
BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH	Myiophonus caeruleus	86/90	u	C,D,I	i
				D,D,I	iii
PLAIN-BACKED THRUSH LONG-TAILED THRUSH	Zoothera mollissima Z. dixoni	86/90 90	8,17 17	D	iv
WHITE-COLLARED BLACKBIRD	Z. aixoni Turdus albocinctus	86/90		C,D,E	ii
	Turaus aioocincius T. boulboul		u 2578	C,D,E C,D	ii
GREY-WINGED BLACKBIRD	T. ruficollis	90	2,5,7,8	G.D	iii
DARK-THROATED THRUSH GOLDEN-SPECTACLED WARBLER	Seicercus burkii	86 90	3,14	C,D,E	ii
	S. xanthoschistos		u 2010	C,D,E	iii
GREY-HOODED WARBLER		86/90	2,9,10	D	v
GREY-CHEEKED WARBLER	S. poliogenys	90	7 11	В	iv
YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER	Abroscopus superciliaris	86		D,E,G	ii
TICKELL'S LEAF WARBLER	Phylloscopus affinis	90	u	C,D,E	i
BUFF-BARRED WARBLER	P. pulcher	86/90	u	تاركرا	4

LEMON-RUMPED WARBLER	P. proregulus	86/90	u	D,E	ii
INORNATE WARBLER	P. inornatus	86	12	A	v
ASHY-THROATED WARBLER	P. maculipennis	86/90	3,5,8,10,13	D	iii
LARGE-BILLED LEAF WARBLER	P. magnirostris	90	u	C,D,E	i
GREENISH WARBLER	P. trochiloides	90	2,6	B,C	iii
BLYTH'S LEAF WARBLER	P. reguloides	90	u	C,D,E	i
GOLDCREST	Regulus regulus	90	16,17	D	iii
COMMON TAILORBIRD	Orthotomus sutorius	86	1	Н	iv
STRIATED PRINIA	Prinia criniger	86/90	u	G,H	ii
	P. atrogularis	86	11	С	iv
BROWNISH-FLANKED BUSH WARBLER	Cettia fortipes	90	5,7	C,D	iv
GREY-SIDED BUSH WARBLER	C. brunnifrons	90	5,7,8,13	D	iii
DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER	Muscicapa sibirica	90	5-9,13-14	C,D	ii
VERDITER FLYCATCHER	M. thalassina	86/90	u	B,C,D	ii
RUFOUS-GORGETTED FLYCATCHER	Ficedula strophiata	86/90	u	C,D	ii
LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER	F. westermannii	86	11	С	iv
ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER	F. superciliaris	90	2,15,18	C,I	ii
SLATY-BLUE FLYCATCHER	F. tricolor	90	u	C,D,I	ii
RUFOUS-BELLIED NILTAVA	Niltava sundara	90	5,7,8	D	iii
BLUE-THROATED FLYCATCHER	Cyornis rubeculoides	90	2	В	v
PYGMY BLUE FLYCATCHER	Muscicapella hodgsoni	86	5	С	v
GREY-HEADED FLYCATCHER	Culicicapa ceylonensis	86/90	u	C,D,E	ii
YELLOW-BELLIED FANTAIL	Rhipidura hypoxantha	86/90	u	C,D,E	ii
BLACK-NAPED MONARCH	Hypothymis azurea	86	12	A	iv
RUFOUS-BREASTED ACCENTOR	Prunella strophiata	86/90	u	E,G,H	ii
MAROON-BACKED ACCENTOR	P. immaculata	86	4	E	iv
WHITE WAGTAIL	Motacilla alba	86/90	u	G,H,I	i
GREY WAGTAIL	M. cinerea	86/90	2,5,7	D,I	iii
YELLOW-HOODED WAGTAIL	M. citreola	90	18	G	v
OLIVE TREE-PIPIT	Anthus hodgsoni	90	u	D,E,G	i
ROSY PIPIT	A. roseatus	86/90	3,17	D,G	iii
ASHY WOOD-SWALLOW	Artamus fuscus	86/90	1,12	F,H	iii
BROWN SHRIKE	Lanius cristatus	86	4	G	iv
GREY-BACKED SHRIKE	L. tephronotus	86/90	u	G,H	i
	L. schach	86/90	1,10,12	F,H	iii
CHESTNUT-TAILED STARLING	Sturnus malabaricus	86	12	F	iii
ASIAN PIED STARLING	S. contra	86	1,12	F,H	ii
COMMON MYNA	Acridotheres tristis	86	1,4,12	F,G,H	ii
JUNGLE MYNA	A. fuscus	86	12	F	iv
HILL MYNA	Gracula religiosa	86	12	A	iv
GOULD'S SUNBIRD	Aethopyga gouldiae	86/90	u	D,E	ii
ODDER I MANY DES OUR PRINCES	A. nipalensis	86/90	2,5,6,9,10	C,D	iii
	A. saturata	86	11	В	iv
CRIMSON SUNBIRD	A. siparaja	90	1,2	B,C	iii
	* *	90	16	D	iii
		86	12	В	iv
		86/90	5-7,10	C,D	iii
		86/90	u	C,D	iii
			u	F,G,H	ii
			3,4,7,14	G,H	ii
			1	Н	iii
		90	18	G	v
		90	16	D	iv
			9	С	iii
	•		4,7,14,16,17	G	i
				D	iv
			2,5,11	B,C,D	iii

WHITE-BROWED ROSEFINCH	C. thura	86	5	D	iii
THREE-BANDED ROSEFINCH	C. trifasciatus	86	14	G	iv
GOLD-NAPED FINCH	Pyrrhoplectes epauletta	90	13	D	v
BROWN BULLFINCH	Pyrrhula nipalensis	90	2	С	iv
RED-HEADED BULLFINCH	P. erythrocephala	86/90	4,11,13-15	D,E	ii
GREY-HEADED BULLFINCH	P. erythaca	90	5	D	iv
COLLARED GROSBEAK	Mycerobas affinis	86/90	5,17,18	D,E	iii
WHITE-WINGED GROSBEAK	M. carnipes	86	3	E	iv
GREY-NECKED BUNTING	Emberiza buchanani	90	18	G	v
LITTLE BUNTING	E. pusilla	86	3,4,6,10,14	G,H	ii